

Flywheel

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Psalm 1

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Jay Austin worked hard to make a living selling cars. Jay had his priorities mixed up. Making a profit was more important to him than honesty. He and his salesmen knew how to make themselves look sincere even though they weren't telling the truth. Jay gave first priority to his business.

Have there been times in your life when you've said things that weren't true and people trusted you? What is first place in your life?

Jay's pastor bought a car for his daughter. He was happy with the deal and wanted to pray for Jay. The pastor thanked God for what he believed was a good deal, and prayed that God would treat Jay the same way that Jay had treated him. The pastor thought he was giving Jay a blessing, but Jay knew he had been dishonest.

Would you want someone to pray that God would treat you the same way you treat others?

When Jay realized that things were falling apart in his business he confided in his mechanic, "I don't even like myself, Max. I've got friction with almost every person in my life." Max told him that there were a lot of things he had not done right either, but when he let God be in control of his life it was a whole lot better.

Are there times when you have friction with people in your life? Is it partly your fault?

Max explained to Jay that the car they were trying to repair wouldn't be going anywhere until they replaced the flywheel. He wanted Jay to understand that when that one central part of the car was broken that the whole car was broken. When the flywheel was repaired, the other parts of the car were able to function properly. When Jay's relationship with God was broken, all of his other relationships were strained also.

Are there strained relationships in your life? Do you need to repair your relationship with God?

When God changed Jay's life he realized that there were people he had cheated that he needed to pay back. He was already in money trouble and didn't know how things could ever work out, but he trusted that if he lived his life for God that God would show him how to do things right.

Are there areas of your life that you are struggling with? Ask God to show you how to deal with them.

Jay admitted that he had gotten himself in a mess that he couldn't fix it. He decided to let God be the center of his life. When Jay tried to solve his problems dishonestly he was unhappy and his relationships were strained. When he gave his problems to God, the problems didn't go away immediately, and some even got worse, but Jay was content trusting that God was in control. God opened Jay's eyes to see that he had failed his wife and son by putting his business first. Jay resolved to be a better husband and father.

Dear Lord, too many times we let our priorities get out of order. Help us to trust in You first and then show us what needs to be rearranged in our lives. Take away our fear of failure and give us confidence that You will always be with us. Fill us with joy when we choose to do what is right. In Jesus name, Amen.